## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.    (Currently Amended)    A digital recording apparatus to which a signal obtained by subjecting signals on a plurality of video camera channels to time division multiplexing is inputted, comprising:

recording mode setting for causing a user to select one of a plurality of recording modes corresponding to a recording time period;

~~storage means having a by-channel compression rate storage area for storing a compression rate for each of the plurality of video camera channels;~~

first storage means for storing, for each of the recording modes, a target amount of coding per field for the recording mode and a compression rate corresponding to the target amount of cording;

second storage means having a by-channel compression rate storage area for storing the compression rate for each of the plurality of video camera channels;

initial value setting means for setting the compression rate corresponding to the target amount of coding for the recording mode selected by the recording mode setting means, as an initial compression rate in each of the by-channel compression rate storage areas in the second storage means;

compression means for performing, every time the signal corresponding to one field is inputted, compression processing using the compression rate stored in the by-channel compression rate storage area, corresponding to the inputted signal, in the second storage means; and

compression rate control means for updating, every time the signal corresponding to one field has been compressed by the compression means, the compression rate stored in the by-channel compression rate storage area, corresponding to the inputted signal, in the second storage means to such a value that an amount of coding after the compression approaches ~~a predetermined~~ the target amount of coding on the basis of the amount of coding after the compression and the target amount of coding corresponding to the recording mode selected by the recording mode setting means.

2.    (Currently Amended)    A digital recording apparatus to which a signal obtained by subjecting signals on a plurality of video camera channels to time division multiplexing is inputting, comprising:

a recording mode setting circuit for causing a user to select one of a plurality of recording modes corresponding to a recording time period,

a first storage device for storing, for each of the recording modes, a target amount of coding per field for the recording mode and a compression rate corresponding to the target amount of cording;

a second storage device having a by-channel compression rate storage area for storing the compression rate for each of the plurality of video camera channels;

an initial value setting circuit for setting the compression rate corresponding to the target amount of coding for the recording mode selected by the recording mode setting circuit, as an initial compression rate in each of the by-channel compression rate storage areas in the second storage device;

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a storage device having a by-channel compression rate storage area storing a compression rate for each of the plurality of video camera channels;

a compression circuit for performing, every time the signal corresponding to one field is inputted, compression processing using the compression rate stored in the by-channel compression rate storage area, corresponding to the inputted signal, in the storage device; and

a compression rate control circuit for updating, every time the signal corresponding to one field has been compressed by the compression circuit, the compression rate stored in the by-channel compression rate storage area, corresponding to the inputted signal, in the second storage device to such a value that an amount of coding after the compression approaches a predetermined the target amount of coding on the basis of the amount of coding after the compression and the target amount of coding corresponding to the recording mode selected by the recording mode setting circuit.